THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has launched "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP)" to improve quality of technical education with the assistance of World Bank. The total cost of the Programme for 10th Plan Period is Rs. 1,550 crore consisting of Central component of Rs. 350 crore and State component of Rs. 1200 crore.

For implementing the above Programme, the International Development Association (World Bank) have agreed to provide credit of approximately Rs. 1250 crore during the 10th Plan. The Programme has been declared effective with effect from 12th March, 2003.

The Programme is being implemented in two Cycles. In the First Cycle Six States namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are participating. In the Second Cycle Seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are participating.

The engineering Institutions from the State of Tamil Nadu are also participating in the Programme.

MASS Education Institute

†1821. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are norms prescribed for getting approval for 'Mass Education Institute' (Jan Shikshan Sansthan).

(b) whether it is a fact that rural population is deprived of the benefits of such scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider to open such institutes in most backward districts on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The norms are as follows:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

— NGO should be registered for more than three years

— have experience in the field of Education, Adult Education or related fields

— NGO should be financially sound and have Audited statement of accounts for last three years

— it should have carried out programmes and activities in the district it has applied for.

(b) and (c) The coverage of the scheme extends to the entire district. The target group of the scheme is semi-literate, neo-literates and unskilled youth with special emphasis on SC/ST, OBC and other deprived sections of the society, particularly in rural areas of the district.

(d) Jan Shikshan Sansthan are sanctioned to reputed NGOs keeping in view the progress of literacy schemes in the district, availability of slots for different States in a particular year and to ensure equitable distribution between States.

Inclusion of information and communication technology in schools curriculum

1822. **SHRI** N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to the State Governments to include information and communication technology in schools as a part of their syllabus;

(b) whether any project of Kerala seeking financial assistance for the above scheme is pending with Government for sanction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for financial assistance under the revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) scheme. The CLASS scheme has been discontinued.